

Education and Training Reform for the Future (ETRF)

The Queensland Government has enacted a range of initiatives in the area of senior schooling under the ETRF or Education and Training Reform for the Future agenda. The most visible of these has been the creation of the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

Under the ETRF legislation, it is compulsory for students to stay at school until they finish Year 10 or have turned 16, whichever comes first. The ETRF legislation then requires that students must participate in education and training for:

- a further two years; or
- until they have gained a Senior Statement; or
- until they have gained a Certificate III vocational qualification; or
- until they have turned 17.

Alternatively, after completing their compulsory schooling, young people are able to enter the workforce, as long as they are in paid work for at least 25 hours a week.

What is a Learning Account?

All Year 10 students in 2021 are individually registered with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA). Their registration generates a Learner Unique Identification (LUI) and opens the students' learning accounts. The individual password given to each student in Year 10 allows them to visit their learning account and access the Student Connect website. The initial password is their day and month of birth expressed as four (4) digits, eg 2 March = 0203.

The Learning Account records all learning – what, where and when. As activities or studies are completed, the learning account grows, just like a bank account. Most banking will start in Year 11.

The learning account stores information about the different types of learning that a student may undertake.

What is the Senior Statement?

The Senior Statement is a student's official record of learning. It records all the learning achievements in a student's Learning Account.

What is the Queensland Certificate of Education?

The Queensland Certificate of Education is based upon a young person achieving a significant amount of learning (including literacy and numeracy) to an agreed standard. At the end of Year 12, all Year 12 students will be issued with a Senior Statement from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) recording all learning achievements which have been banked in their Learning Account. However, only students who have met the standards of achievement and criteria of the QCE will receive the QCE. Having a set amount of learning and a set standard lets students know what they have to aspire to and it lets the community know what is expected to attain the QCE. The QCE sends a clear message that it represents successful achievements in a significant amount of learning and so provides students with a more valued passport to further education, training and employment.

A Broad Range of Learning

The QCE complements other education and training reforms. Learning achievements that count towards the certificate are from vocational education and training, university courses completed while still at school, and workplaces. This means that at Wynnum High there are multiple pathways to meet the diverse needs of all of our students.



The Quality Criteria

The quality criteria ensure that learning achievements from courses contributing to the QCE are of sufficient size, standing and depth, and facilitate a transition from school to the next phase of learning and training.

Credit

Once a course of study has met the quality criteria, its contribution to the QCE is described as a credit. A credit describes the basic unit of learning and denotes the minimum amount of learning that can contribute to the certificate. The concept of credit allows the total amount of learning required to be specified – that is, at least twenty credits. This reflects an amount of learning that could be reasonably achieved by most young people over a two-year, full-time program of study in the Senior Phase of Learning.

In the main, the QCE acknowledges successfully completed **Core courses** of study that demonstrate a depth of learning. These courses are available to most young people and are undertaken over two years. At least twelve credits must come from Core courses of study.

Preparatory courses of study contribute to the QCE as stepping stones to further education or training in the Senior Phase. A maximum of four credits can come from Preparatory courses of study.

Complementary courses of study add value or complement the core of learning young people do at school; but not all young people have an opportunity to do these courses. Therefore, these courses can contribute up to eight credits and add to the breadth of learning recognised by the QCE.

Allowing a range of learning to contribute to the QCE sends a clear message that the Senior Phase of Learning is about diverse educational and training pathways. Recognising the range of learning on the QCE demonstrates that the different education and training sectors can intersect in an open, integrated and relevant way to meet the rapidly changing needs and priorities for knowledge and skills development.

A Set Standard

The QCE is clearly about successful learning. It is a qualification towards which young people can aspire. Therefore, as well as achieving an amount of learning, there is also a requirement that the learning is at a set standard. The Quality Criteria require that learning that contributes to the QCE must have explicit statements about what it means to successfully complete the course of study. Only learning achievements that meet the requirements in the syllabus, training package, course, plan or project will be eligible for credit towards the QCE.

The set standard is described differently in different courses of study. Satisfactory completion, grade of 'C' or better, competency or qualification completion, pass or equivalent.

The set standard also requires young people to demonstrate achievement in literacy and numeracy. There is a clear expectation that at the end of 12 years of schooling, young people should be literate and numerate.

If a student has not completed certification requirements by the end of Year 12, they may continue to work toward their QCE; their learning account will remain open. Once they have 20 credits in the required pattern, and have met the literacy and numeracy requirements, the QCE will be awarded in the following July or December.

Credits can accumulate for up to 9 years from when the account was opened. After this time, earlier credits will expire and the student will begin accumulating credit again for a period of a further 9 years, and so on. This is known as "the banking period".

A QCE will be awarded when a student has:

1. Achieved **20 credits in a set pattern:**
 - ▶ a minimum of 12 credits from completed core courses of study; and
 - ▶ the remaining 8 credits from a combination of courses of study
2. Achieved a **set standard** as follows:
 - ▶ for General and Applied subjects, the set standard is a grade of 'C' or better
 - ▶ for VET certificates, the set standard is Competence
 - ▶ for other courses of study recognized or approved by the QCAA the set standard is a Pass or the equivalent

AND

3. Satisfied the requirement for **literacy and numeracy** by achieving the set standard in one of the following:
 - ▶ QCAA General or Applied English/Mathematics subject
 - ▶ QCAA Short Course in Literacy/Numeracy
 - ▶ Senior External Examination in a QCAA English/Mathematics subject
 - ▶ International Baccalaureate examination in approved English/Mathematics subjects
 - ▶ Recognised studies listed as meeting literacy/numeracy requirements

For further information on the QCE please refer to <http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au>

Changes to senior schooling in Queensland

Senior schooling in Queensland is changing to help give students the skills for success in work and life in the future. Across senior subjects, students will acquire 21st century skills to support them as lifelong learners, valued employees, innovators and engaged global citizens.

Under the new QCE system, students can still choose from a wide range of subjects and courses to suit their work and study goals. Assessment will change in QCAA General subjects, with the introduction of common external assessments.

From 2020, there will also be a new way to rank students who wish to apply for university. The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will be used to rank eligible Year 12 graduates, rather than the Overall Position (OP). ATARs will be calculated and issued by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). Visit QTAC for details: www.qtac.edu.au/for-schools/atar-information.

Senior Education Profile

Queensland students receive a Senior Education Profile from the QCAA when they complete Year 12. All students receive a statement of results, which is a transcript of their learning account. Eligible students also receive either a QCE or a QCIA. Students who are not eligible for the QCE at the end of Year 12 will continue to accrue credit and will receive an updated statement of results and a QCE when eligible.

Statement of results

The statement of results is a transcript of a student's learning account. It shows all contributing studies and the results achieved.

QCE

The QCE is Queensland's senior secondary schooling qualification. To be issued with a QCE, students need to complete the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements.

QCIA

The QCIA recognises the achievements of students who undertake individualised learning programs. To be eligible, students must have impairments or difficulties in learning that are not primarily due to socioeconomic, cultural or linguistic factors.



Queensland Certificate of Education

For students completing Year 12 from 2020

About the QCE

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's senior secondary schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and provides evidence of senior schooling achievements.

The flexibility of the QCE means that students can choose from a wide range of learning options to suit their interests and career goals. Most students will plan their QCE pathway in Year 10 when choosing senior courses of study. Their school will help them develop their individual plan and a QCAA learning account will be opened.

To receive a QCE, students must achieve the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements. The QCE is issued to eligible students when they meet all the requirements, either at the completion of Year 12, or after they have left school.



QCE requirements

As well as meeting the below requirements, students must have an open learning account before starting the QCE, and accrue a minimum of one credit from a Core course of study while enrolled at a Queensland school.

<div style="text-align: center;">Set amount</div> <p>20 credits from contributing courses of study, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QCAA-developed subjects or courses • vocational education and training (VET) qualifications • non-Queensland studies • recognised studies. 	<div style="text-align: center;">Set pattern</div> <p>12 credits from completed Core courses of study and 8 credits from any combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core • Preparatory (maximum 4) • Complementary (maximum 8).
<div style="text-align: center;">Set standard</div> <p>Satisfactory completion, grade of C or better, competency or qualification completion, pass or equivalent.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">Literacy & numeracy</div> <p>Students must meet literacy and numeracy requirements through one of the available learning options.</p>

More information

For more information about the QCE requirements, see the following factsheets, which are available on the QCAA website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au:

- QCE credit and duplication of learning
- QCE credit: completed Core requirement
- QCE literacy and numeracy requirement.

Set pattern

Within the set pattern requirement, there are three categories of learning — Core, Preparatory and Complementary. When the set standard is met, credit will accrue in a student's learning account.

To meet the set pattern requirement for a QCE, at least 12 credits must be accrued from completed Core courses of study. The remaining 8 credits may accrue from a combination of Core, Preparatory or Complementary courses of study.

- **Core:** At least 12 credits must come from completed Core courses of study

COURSE	QCE CREDITS PER COURSE
QCAA General subjects and Applied subjects	up to 4
QCAA Extension subjects	up to 2
Certificate II qualifications	up to 4
Certificate III and IV qualifications (includes traineeships)	up to 8
School-based apprenticeships	up to 6
Recognised studies categorised as Core	as recognised by QCAA

- **Preparatory:** A maximum of 4 credits can come from Preparatory courses of study

QCAA Short Courses	up to 1
• QCAA Short Course in Literacy	
• QCAA Short Course in Numeracy	
Certificate I qualifications	up to 3
Recognised studies categorised as Preparatory	as recognised by QCAA

- **Complementary:** A maximum of 8 credits can come from Complementary courses of study

QCAA Short Courses	up to 1
• QCAA Short Course in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Languages	
• QCAA Short Course in Career Education	
University subjects	up to 4
Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas	up to 8
Recognised studies categorised as Complementary	as recognised by QCAA

Literacy & numeracy

The literacy and numeracy requirements for a QCE meet the standards outlined in the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) Level 3.

To meet the literacy and numeracy requirement for the QCE, a student must achieve the set standard in one of the literacy and one of the numeracy learning options:

Literacy

- QCAA General or Applied English subjects
- QCAA Short Course in Literacy
- Senior External Examination in a QCAA English subject
- FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- International Baccalaureate examination in approved English subjects
- Recognised studies listed as meeting literacy requirements

Numeracy

- QCAA General or Applied Mathematics subjects
- QCAA Short Course in Numeracy
- Senior External Examination in a QCAA Mathematics subject
- FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- International Baccalaureate examination in approved Mathematics subjects
- Recognised studies listed as meeting numeracy requirements

Subject Selection Assistance

The task of selecting an appropriate course of study for students as they enter their final two years of secondary education is a very important one. It is a process that should be done carefully and realistically and the school endeavours to provide accurate career information and a school-based process to help students, parents and carers make informed decisions.

Many students in Year 10 have only a general idea of the career path they wish to follow. This is not unusual nor should it be of great concern at this stage. Students arrive at future career choices not as an event but as the result of a process. Students gain greater interest and focus on career options as they work their way through Year 11 and Year 12. Their experiences through their study and work experience invariably lead them to their future experiences.

In 2021, all Year 10 students have undertaken one Pastoral Care lesson per week. The aim of this weekly lesson has been to help students:

- clarify interests, abilities and achievements
- provide information on the types of employment available for school leavers
- give details on tertiary entrance (ATAR) and explain how the tertiary entrance system operates
- provide information on the subjects available at Wynnum High
- help students develop their Student Education & Training Plans (SETPs) for Year 11 and Year 12.

As students choose their subjects it has been our experience that successful subject selection is based on the following key factors:

- Research each subject thoroughly.
- Take steps to ensure that you understand the content and requirements of each subject.
- Read subject descriptions and course outlines in the Senior School Subject Handbook.
- Talk to Heads of Departments and teachers of the subjects.
- Look at books and materials used in the subjects.
- Listen carefully at subject selection evening and subject presentations.
- Talk to students who are already studying the subjects.
- Be aware of school subject pre-requisites.
- Be aware of university subject pre-requisites.
- Consider ATAR eligibility
- Do subjects you like and are good at.

Traps to avoid:

- Do not select subjects simply because someone has told you that they help to get good results and give you a better chance of getting into university or getting a better ATAR.
- Try not to be influenced by suggestions that you should or should not choose a particular subject because a friend/sister/brother either disliked it or the teacher when they studied it.

All these factors need careful consideration when selecting subjects. In the senior school you will need to accept greater responsibility for organising home study. Time management skills are very important as students seek to manage part time employment, full-time study and family and social lives. In Years 11 and 12 the work expectations are greater and the assessment load for subjects increases. We want you to be prepared to work hard and to ultimately reap the rewards of your hard work.

The school will provide guidance and assistance both now and in the future. All Year 10 students and their parents are interviewed during Term 3 in preparation for Years 11 and 12. This interview takes place with an experienced teacher of the school. Year 10 students are expected to bring their Student Education & Training Plan and Subject Selection form to the interview. Do not hesitate to contact the school for information or advice. Such inquiries in the first instance should be directed to Mr Rob Inglis, Guidance Officer.

What subjects are available?

Wynnum State High School offers General subjects, Applied subjects and vocational certificates.

General Subject

General subjects are approved by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) and are offered statewide in Queensland secondary schools.

General subjects:

- ▶ are used in the calculation of an ATAR
- ▶ are recorded on the Senior Statement
- ▶ provide credit towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

Applied Subject

These subjects are those devised from an Applied Study Area Specification (SAS) developed by the school for which a study plan is accredited. Applied subjects emphasise practical skills and knowledge relevant to specific industries.

Applied subjects:

- ▶ may contribute towards an ATAR (NB: no more than ONE result in an Applied subject can be used in the calculation of an ATAR)
- ▶ are recorded on the Senior Statement
- ▶ contribute credit towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Student achievement in accredited vocational education modules or stand-alone certificates is based on industry endorsed competency standards. The modules are recognised within the VET Quality Framework and this may give advanced standing towards and/or credit on entry to higher level courses at TAFE institutes and other registered training organisations.

VET subjects:

- ▶ may contribute towards an ATAR (NB: no more than ONE result in a Certificate III or higher VET qualification can be used in the calculation of an ATAR)
- ▶ Results appear on the Senior Statement
- ▶ Results for units of competency successfully completed are recorded as 'Competent'
- ▶ Can provide credit towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Students in Years 11 and 12 are offered the opportunity to undertake a school based traineeship or apprenticeship. This senior pathway is a very important pathway offering students flexibility to be successful at school. School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATs) allow students to work towards a nationally recognised qualification while completing their senior studies. Under the SAT program a student will receive a Senior Statement, will also have trained towards a qualification in their chosen career and been paid for time spent working. Training takes place while at work, at school or at their training provider.

For more information regarding school based traineeships and apprenticeships please contact HOD Senior Schooling on 3906 7349 or visit the VET Department in F24.

Work Experience and Workplacement

For many years the school has operated a Work Experience/Work Placement Program to assist students to make the transition from school to work. We have established a considerable database of employers who participate in the program. Education Queensland is committed to the provision of Work Experience/Work Placement for students as part of their education. Participation in the program is voluntary and requires that the school, student and parents/carers agree to the conditions of the placement.

Some placements are for the whole day, whereas other placements may only operate for a part day. The school and the employer reserve the right to terminate or modify the arrangement at any time and without notice.

If a student or his/her parent wishes to terminate or modify the arrangement, this request must be discussed with the Head of Department Senior Schooling. It is then the responsibility of the school to terminate or modify the arrangement, if warranted.

Students are to work normal working hours for their place of employment. They must not be paid. During work experience/work placement, the school will contact the place of employment. This is mandatory. Employers, students and members of the public are covered by insurance for injury and/or property damage. Students are covered by WorkCover for permanent injury or death only.

Sport

Sport is *not* compulsory for students in Year 11 and Year 12 on a Wednesday. Year 11 and Year 12 students who wish to participate in inter-school sport or intra-school physical activities on Wednesday afternoons may do so as long as they commit to the activity for the whole season/program. Students wishing to gain selection in Queensland School Sport (QSS) representative teams, that is District level and above must commit to participation in inter-school sport activities for at least one entire season.

Senior Proud Support Program

The Senior Proud Support Program operates on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.10 pm until 2.50 pm in F23 and provides extra support for those students who may require it.

Students who will be required to attend this program are those who:

- are failing two or more subjects
- have been referred to the HOD Senior Schooling by a teacher who is concerned about the student's progress in a particular subject

Students will need to continue to attend the program until such time that they either improve their results or change subjects. We would like to stress that the Senior Proud Support Program, while compulsory, is not meant as punishment but as an extra support mechanism to allow students to achieve success in the senior school. Students may also attend voluntarily to receive extra academic support.

Glossary of Terms

The following brief explanation of terms associated with the QCE, QCAA and senior schooling may be helpful. Please seek further clarification if needed.

Advanced Standing refers to the credit granted to a student towards an accredited course or training program on the basis of previous study, experience or competencies held.

Articulation is the process used to progress from one level of qualification to another.

ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) is the primary mechanism for Queensland's school leavers to seek entry into tertiary study. It aligns Queensland with the rest of Australia and allows greater interstate student mobility.

Banking Credits is the process of adding learning achievements to a Learning Account.

Competencies are the knowledge and skills a person must have to do a specific job or gain a specific VET qualification.

Compulsory Participation Phase is the legislated requirement for young people to participate in education or training for a further two years beyond Year 10.

Credit is a defined and assessable quantity of learning at the set standard that is the minimum achievement that can contribute to the QCE.

Credit Transfer recognises previous formal study or training based on documented evidence of achievement.

Learning Account is opened for each learner before they turn 16 years of age on registration with the QCAA.

Learning Achievement is a recordable amount of learning. This could be a 'competence' in VET or a semester unit in a subject.

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) refers to the award attained by a young person who has achieved 20 credits in the required pattern and who has met the literacy and numeracy requirements. The learning achievements banked during the senior phase of learning contribute toward this qualification.

Prerequisite is a term used to describe a subject or qualification required for eligibility for entry to a particular course of study or employment.

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre Ltd (QTAC) acts on behalf of universities and TAFE institutes to publish course information and requirements, to provide application materials and to receive and process applications.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the process used to assess the competencies a person has gained from past experiences and training. RPL is a form of assessment and each person is treated individually.

Senior Statement refers to the transcript, issued by QCAA that records all learning achievements banked by a student completing Year 12.

Senior Phase of Learning begins with young people registering with the QCAA the year before they turn 16 and ends when QCAA awards the QCE.

Set Standard refers to the standard of achievement that attracts credit towards the QCE. In VET the set standard is 'Competence', in General and Applied subjects it is at least a grade of "C".

Variable Progression Rate refers to QCAA processes that allow young people to complete their senior studies over a longer period of time than the normal two years.

VET Quality Framework shows all qualifications issued in post compulsory education in Australia and how these qualifications relate to each other.

Useful Internet Sites

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
<http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au>

QTAC – Queensland Tertiary Admission Centre
<http://www.qtac.edu.au>

MyFuture
www.myfuture.edu.au

Job Guide
<http://www.jobguide.education.gov.au>

TAFE – Queensland
<http://www.tafeqld.edu.au>

Job Outlook
<http://joboutlook.gov.au>